

The following claims are presented for examination:

What is claimed is:

**1.** (Currently Amended) A method ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient~~, comprising:

receiving ~~[[said]]~~ an email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ the sender from a presence server, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence status indicates a presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ the sender across plurality of domains; ~~[[and]]~~

delivering ~~[[said]]~~ the email message to ~~[[said]]~~ a recipient with an indication of a presence of ~~[[said]]~~ the sender on one or more of ~~[[said]]~~ the plurality of domains; and

wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.

**2.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**3.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence server translates ~~[[said]]~~ the presence information to a standard format.

**4.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence server determines ~~[[said]]~~ the presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ the sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

**5.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient responds to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender in another domain.

**6.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**7.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence information is obtained from a user registration process.

**8.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the presence information is obtained by observing activities of a user.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender in real time.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender in non-real time.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender using a non-textual form of communication.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the plurality of domains is a plurality of client domains.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the plurality of domains is a plurality of server domains.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient,~~ comprising:

receiving ~~[[said]]~~ an email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ the sender across a plurality of domains;

delivering the email message to a recipient with an indication of a presence of the sender on one or more of the domains and  
automatically initiating a communication with a device at which the sender is believed to be present, wherein the initiated communication is not an email communication,

providing a mechanism with said delivered email for said recipient to automatically respond to ~~[[said]]~~ sender at a device associated with at least one of said plurality of domains where said sender is believed to be present.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the providing step allows ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient to respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender in another domain.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender in real time.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender in non-real time.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ the sender using a non-textual form of communication.

**19.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for delivering an email message to a recipient~~, comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:

receive ~~[[said]]~~ **an** email message from a sender;

obtain a presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ **the** sender from a presence server, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence status indicates a presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ **the** sender across a plurality of domains; ~~[[and]]~~

deliver ~~[[said]]~~ **the** email message to ~~[[said]]~~ **a** recipient with an indication of a presence of ~~[[said]]~~ **the** sender on one or more of ~~[[said]]~~ **the** plurality of domains; and wherein the presence status is obtained if and only if the recipient has a permission to receive the sender's presence status.

**20.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

**21.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence server translates ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence information to a standard format.

**22.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence server determines ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence status of ~~[[said]]~~ **the** sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

**23.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** recipient responds to ~~[[said]]~~ **the** sender in another domain.

**24.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

**25.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ **the** recipient can respond to ~~[[said]]~~ **the** sender using a non-textual form of communication.